CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

p. 8 + obvious

1 1. A method for managing a home product supply chain utilizing a network,

2 comprising:

3 a) receiving data from a plurality of home product outlets of a home product supply

4 chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of home products by the

5 home product outlets;

6 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering home products

7 from a home product distributor of the home product supply chain;

8 c) transmitting the data to the home product distributor of the home product supply

9 chain utilizing the network;

10 d) transmitting the data to a home product supplier of the home product supply chain

11 utilizing the network; and

12 e) forecasting activity in the home product supply chain utilizing the data.

analyze critically

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of

2 home product distributors and home product suppliers.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the home product

2 outlets, the home product distributor, the home product supplier via a network-

3 based interface.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the home product

2 distributor and the home product supplier only after verification of an identity

3 thereof.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the home product outlets, the home product

2   distributor, and the home product supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

1   7.   A system for managing a home products supply chain utilizing a network,

2   comprising:

3   a)   logic for receiving data from a plurality of home products outlets of a home

4   products supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of home

5   products by the home products outlets;

6   b)   logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering home

7   products from a home products distributor of the home products supply chain;

8   c)   logic for transmitting the data to the home products distributor of the home

9   products supply chain utilizing the network;

10   d)   logic for transmitting the data to a home products supplier of the home products

11   supply chain utilizing the network; and

12   e)   logic for forecasting activity in the home products supply chain utilizing the data.

1   8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of

2   home products distributors and home products suppliers.

1   9.   The system of claim 8, wherein the data is made accessible to the home products

2   outlets, the home products distributor, the home products supplier via a network-

3   based interface.

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the data is accessible to the home products

2   distributor and the home products supplier only after verification of an identity

3   thereof.

1   11.   The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   12.   The system of claim 7, wherein the home products outlets, the home products

2   distributor, and the home products supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

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1   13.   A computer program product for managing a home products supply chain

2   utilizing a network, comprising:

3   a)   computer code for receiving data from a plurality of home products outlets of a

4   home products supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of

5   home products by the home products outlets;

6   b)   computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for

7   ordering home products from a home products distributor of the home products

8   supply chain;

9   c)   computer code for transmitting the data to the home products distributor of the

10   home products supply chain utilizing the network;

11   d)   computer code for transmitting the data to a home products supplier of the home

12   products supply chain utilizing the network; and

13   e)   computer code for forecasting activity in the home products supply chain utilizing

14   the data.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match

2   each of a plurality of home products distributors and home products suppliers.

1   15.   The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible

2   to the home products outlets, the home products distributor, the home products

3   supplier via a network-based interface.

1   16.   The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the

2   home products distributor and the home products supplier only after verification

3   of an identity thereof.

1   17.   The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the

2   Internet.

1   18.   The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the home products outlets,

2   the home products distributor, and the home products supplier each forecast

3   utilizing the data.